

# PATENT SPECIFICATION

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## (54) IMPROVEMENTS IN OR RELATING TO PACKING PRODUCTS MADE OF STUFF OR MATERIAL OR THE LIKE

(71) We, TEXTILES DU VALLESPER, a company duly organised under the laws of France, of Ceret, Pyrenees-Orientales, France, do hereby declare the invention, for which we pray that a patent may be granted to us, and the method by which it is to be performed, to be particularly described in and by the following statement:—

The packaging of industrial products sold to the general public is of increasing importance in the course of years and it raises problems with contradictory solutions. It is possible to maintain, as far as possible, the products out of reach of the public in order to keep intact the properties of the products shown for sale, as by using a sealed package; but the package hides or deforms the appearance of the products so covered thereby and it does not enable, without unpacking, some operations such as the appreciation and appraisal of the products by a finger touch or accurate comparisons of the colours. Letting people open the package for the purpose of appreciating the products contained therein, can lead to expensive risks for the products, for example damage, loss, unmatching.

This dilemma is particularly important for products coming from the textile industry, such as clothes, underwear and house linen; for products made of soft leather; for products which are made of special papers such as clothes, house linen or articles which are thrown away after a limited use. In all these cases, the possible buyer needs to assess the finished product, its real colour, its mechanical strength. Yet the merchandise is quickly damaged by repeated handlings.

According to the invention there is provided a method of packaging products made of woven or knitted or other non-woven fabric, textile, paper, soft leather or other sheet or cloth or similar material, wherein each said product or a set thereof

is packed within a separate corresponding protective cover, and at least one fragment or sample of the actual material of the packed product(s) is directly or indirectly secured by a portion thereof onto the cover outside of the cover, whereby at least a part of the fragment or sample is substantially free to move relatively to the cover and is submitted for direct appraisal (as by touch and sight) by a possible buyer.

The possible buyer can thus touch the material and appraise its quality and colour, without removing the actual from its protective cover.

It will be appreciated that the invention includes within its scope products packaged by the method.

The invention also includes the combination of at least one product made of woven or knitted or other non-woven fabric, textile, paper, soft leather or other sheet or cloth or similar material and packed within a protective cover, and at least one fragment or sample of the actual material of the packed product(s) directly or indirectly secured by a portion thereof onto the cover outside of the cover, whereby at least a part of the fragment or sample is submitted for direct appraisal (as by touch or sight) by a possible buyer.

Two embodiments of the present invention are shown by way of non-restrictive example in the accompanying drawings, in which:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a product of a relatively small thickness packaged according to the method of the invention.

Fig. 2 is a perspective view of a product of a relatively large thickness packaged according to the method of the invention.

In Fig. 1, a relatively flat textile product 11, for example a table cloth or bed sheet, has been packed in a closed package 13 which is provided with a window 15 closed by a small sheet of transparent material. The closed packing 13 protects the product 11 against accidental damages such as dirty

marks and tears. It also insures that a set of matched objects, for example a dozen napkins, keeps a composition identical to that it had at the moment of packing them.

5 The possible buyer can have only an impression of the packed object but cannot touch it; for example, the colors of the object 11 can appear changed by the reflections of the transparent sheet.

10 On a large side of the package 13 there is fixed a sample fragment 17 of the material of which the product 11 is made. The sample 17 is outside the package and can be freely touched by the buyer who can also appreciate directly the colors not modified by the package. The sample 17 is fixed onto the package 13 by any appropriate means.

For example a self-adhesive label or other element 19 of a known type is stuck, on the one hand partly onto the package, on the other hand partly onto the sample 17. At the junction between the sample 17 and the package 13, the label 19 makes a hinge which enables a free rotation of the sample 17 through 180°. Instead of sticking on the sample by means of a label, a portion of the sample 17 can be directly stuck onto the package 13. It is also possible to clip or staple or sew the sample onto the package, directly or indirectly through a part itself fixed onto the sample and the package. When this is possible, considering the material of the package 13 and the material of the sample 17, the sample can be directly welded to the package, e.g. by means of a hot roller.

Fig. 2 shows a variant of the invention where the packed product 31 is relatively bulky. If the packages 33 are piled up, one upon the another, on shelves (not represented), then the buyer can only easily reach the front portion of a package 33. In that case, the sample 37 is fixed on the front portion of the package 33, in the same way as the sample 17 of Fig. 1 is fixed on the upper side of the package 13.

It must be noted that one of the advantages of the invention is to enable an easy replacement of a sample 17 or 37 which has been pulled away or damaged. Also, it is possible to place, on each package, several samples to avoid the replacement of the samples pulled away or damaged, or in view of giving a sample to a prospective customer, or to place said samples on various sides of the package.

The invention is not restricted to the embodiments shown and described in detail for various modifications thereof can moreover be applied thereto without departing from the scope of the invention as defined in the appended claims.

#### WHAT WE CLAIM IS:—

1. A method of packaging products made of woven or knitted or other non-woven fabric, textile, paper, soft leather or other sheet or cloth or similar material, wherein each said product or a set thereof is packed within a separate corresponding protective cover, and at least one fragment or sample of the actual material of the packed product(s) is directly or indirectly secured by a portion thereof onto the cover outside of the cover, whereby at least a part of the fragment or sample is substantially free to move relatively to the cover and is submitted for direct appraisal (as by touch and sight) by a possible buyer.

2. A method as set forth in Claim 1, wherein the cover has large faces to one of which the fragment or sample is secured.

3. A method as set forth in Claim 1, wherein the cover has a side to which the fragment or sample is secured.

4. A method as set forth in any one of Claims 1—3, wherein the fragment or sample is directly secured to the cover by sticking of the said portion thereof to the cover.

5. A method as set forth in any one of Claims 1—3, wherein the fragment or sample is indirectly secured to the cover by means of an adhesive member.

6. A method as set forth in any one of Claims 1—3, wherein the fragment or sample is directly secured to the cover by welding.

7. A method as set forth in any one of Claims 1—3 wherein the fragment or sample is secured to the cover by clip or staple means.

8. A method as set forth in any one of Claims 1—3, wherein the fragment or sample is secured to the cover by sewing.

9. A method as set forth in any one of Claims 1—8 wherein the fragment or sample is detachably secured to the cover.

10. A method of packaging products, substantially as specifically described herein with reference to the accompanying drawings.

11. Products packaged by the method as set forth in any one of Claims 1—10.

12. The combination of at least one product made of woven or knitted or other non-woven fabric, textile, paper, soft leather or other sheet or cloth or similar material and packed within a protective cover, and at least one fragment or sample of the actual material of the packed product(s) directly or indirectly secured by a portion thereof onto the cover outside of the cover, whereby at least a part of the fragment or sample is submitted for direct appraisal (as by touch and sight) by a possible buyer.

13. The combination of at least one  
packed product and at least one fragment  
or sample secured thereto, substantially as  
specifically described herein with reference  
5 to the accompanying drawings.

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FIG.1.

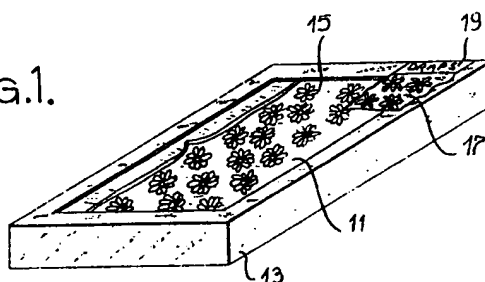
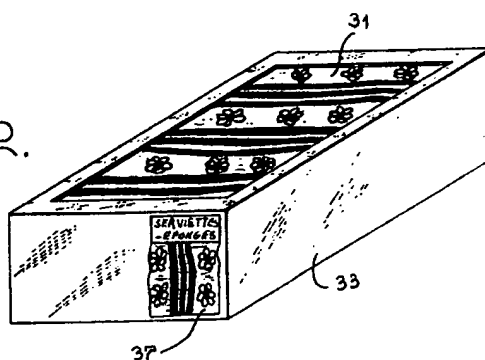


FIG. 2.



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